

THERA CUPRESSATA GEY (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) – FIRST RECORD FOR ALDERNEY – On the night of 30th September/1st October, on a recent visit to Alderney, a single specimen of *Thera cupressata* was trapped in an Actinic trap in a garden at Platte Saline. The moth has only recently been added to the Guernsey list with two individuals taken in October 1985 and a further two in July 1986. (P. Costen *Ent. Rec.* 98: 217). The moth has also been reared through from two larvae beaten from *Cupressus macrocarpa* in the south west of Guernsey (T. N. D. Peet, see below). RICH & MARGARET AUSTIN, Maymyo, Les Amballes, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. C.I.

THERA CUPRESSATA GEY. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) BREEDING ON GUERNSEY – further to the discovery of this species by Costen and Peet (*Ent. Rec.* 98: 217-218), two first instar larvae were beaten from *Cupressus macrocarpa* in the Parish of St. Peters during early August 1986. They were bright green, highly cryptic, stumpy night feeding larvae. Growth was slow, with pupation taking place in the second week in September. The pupa is a bright lime-green, the moths emerging during the second week in October.

Local entomologists have been less fortunate with attempts to breed the recently discovered *Eupithecia ultimaria* Boisd. from tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) – despite finding 20 larvae during August 1986, all died prior to pupation. T. D. N. PEET, Le Chene, Foret, Guernsey.

XANTHANDRUS COMTUS (HARRIS) (DIPT. SYRPHIDAE) NEW TO STAFFORDSHIRE (VC39) – On September 19th, 1986 I was on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire SJ977188 collecting hoverflies for the hoverfly recording scheme, when I captured a male specimen of *Xanthandrus comtus* (Harris). It was confirmed by Mr. G. Halfpenny of the City Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent to be a new record for Staffordshire. I also contacted Mr. P. Entwistle the organiser of the hoverfly recording scheme who confirmed it's scarcity and told me it was the first record of the species he had received this year. M. C. BRIAN, 1, Trevelyans Green. Trinity Fields, Stafford, ST16 1LJ.

RED ADMIRAL OR RED ADMIRABLE? – In his *Key to the names of British butterflies and moths* (1959) McLeod has "Admiral; contraction of the old name 'Admirable'", and in *South's British butterflies* (1973) Howarth writes 'Moses Harris in 1766 knew this species as the Admirable and the common name we now use for it is a corruption of this'. The facts are the other way round and it is 'Admirable' which is the corruption.

The scientific names of insects begin, as everybody knows,